



The Politics of Immigrant Integration in Post-Enlargement Europe.

Migrants, Co-ethnics and European Citizens in Italy and Spain

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Abstract

In migration studies, it is taken for granted that states do not only attempt to control overall numbers of immigrants, but also establish different regulatory regimes for refugees, labour migrants, family reunification, co-ethnics and many other categories of migrants. In studies of immigrant integration, however, most analyses have assumed that each state pursues a single and coherent national approach. The aim of this dissertation is to challenge this assumption by examining how states pursue integration differently for different categories of migrants in post-enlargement Europe. In addition to third country nationals I consider also migrants who have a special cultural and historical bond with their host countries, such as emigrants and descendants of emigrants or migrants from the former colonies (co-ethnics), as well as European Union citizens from old and new member states. The dissertation builds on empirical evidence collected from 1985 to 2012 at national, regional and city levels in two new countries of immigration in Western Europe: Italy and Spain.

The first main finding is that both Italy and Spain chose to distance themselves from the integration policies of the more traditional countries of immigration in Europe, which they classify as failures. Instead, the new immigration countries searched for their "own" integration strategy, which they consider a token of sovereignty just as much as immigration control.

Secondly, both states have introduced different integration policies and integration requirements for different categories of migrants. Rather than pursuing only one integration strategy, the states examined use their resources and abilities to simultaneously pursue different integration strategies for European citizens, co-ethnics and third country nationals. These strategies range from less to more restrictive (from *laissez-faire* to mandatory, sanction-based policies, such as the Italian integration agreement and language test). European Union citizens enjoy many rights in when residing in other member states without being included in their integration programmes, while third country nationals enjoy far fewer rights which they risk to lose if they do not comply with demanding integration programmes. Co-ethnics in turn are included in integration programmes but have more rights than other third country nationals and, in

some areas such as access to citizenship and enrolment in the army, they have even more rights than European citizens.

Finally, this dissertation finds a negative correlation between immigrants' social class in the host society and their rights and integration requirements: the lower the socio-economic position of the immigrant group, the fewer its rights and the more demanding the integration requirements it faces.



Jury: Andrew Geddes (University of Sheffield), Rainer Bauböck (EUI) (Supervisor), Claire Kilpatrick (EUI), Kitty C. Calavita (University of California, Irvine) (via videolink)

Bio

Roxana Barbulescu holds a MA degree in Intercultural Humanities (2008) from Jacobs University Bremen and a MRes in Political and Social Sciences (2009) from the European University Institute. She completed her undergrad studies in 2006 at the University of Craiova, Romania. During her PhD she has been a visiting Scholar at the SMMS, University of Trento, CEAS, Foundation Juan March in Madrid and GRITIM at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. She has been involved as a Research Assistant at the EUDO Citizenship Observatory. Since November 2012 she has been a Research Assistant at the Sheffield Institute for International Development where she has participated in projects on the protection system for the unaccompanied minors and the participation of young migrants in protest movements.

Her interests are state-driven migration in its voluntary and mandatory policy variants, immigrants' rights, intra-European migration, ethnic and labour migration, access to citizenship, anti-Roma prejudice and anti-discrimination unaccompanied minors, political participation and European citizenship.